

Overview of the National Cancer Institute



Mission

The National Cancer Institute (NCI) is a component of the National Institutes of Health (NIH), one of eight agencies that comprise the Public Health Service (PHS) in the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS). The NCI, established under the National Cancer Institute Act of 1937, is the Federal Government's principal agency for cancer research and training. The National Cancer Act of 1971 broadened the scope and responsibilities of the NCI and created the National Cancer Program. Over the years, legislative amendments have maintained the NCI authorities and responsibilities and added new information dissemination mandates as well as a requirement to assess the incorporation of state-of-the-art cancer treatments into clinical practice.

The NCI coordinates the National Cancer Program, which conducts and supports research, training, health information dissemination, and other programs with respect to the causes, diagnosis, prevention, and treatment of cancer, rehabilitation from cancer, and the continuing care of cancer patients and their families. Specifically, the Institute:

- Supports and coordinates research projects conducted by universities, hospitals, research foundations, and businesses throughout the United States and abroad through research grants and cooperative agreements.
- Conducts research in its own laboratories and clinics.
- Supports education and training in fundamental sciences and clinical disciplines for participation in basic and clinical cancer research programs and treatment programs through career awards, training grants, and fellowships.
- Supports research projects in cancer control.
- Supports a national network of cancer centers.
- Collaborates with voluntary organizations and other national and foreign institutions engaged in cancer research and training activities.
- Encourages and coordinates cancer research by industrial concerns where such concerns evidence a particular capability for programmatic research.
- Collects and disseminates information on cancer.
- Supports the construction of laboratories, clinics, and related facilities necessary for cancer research through the award of construction grants.

Bypass Budget

The Nation's Investment in Cancer Research is the NCI's annual plan and budget proposal. As mandated by the U.S. Congress, the NCI provides this document directly to the President of the United States each year for use in formulating a budget request to Congress. Each plan and budget proposal contains valuable information about NCI's vision for cancer research, its goals and progress in specific priority areas, and the plans and funding requirements for those priority areas in a specific fiscal year.

For more information about NCI's bypass budget for Fiscal Year 2009, please visit:

<http://plan.cancer.gov/>

Fact Book – NCI Budget in Review

This report provides a summary of the distribution of the Fiscal Year 2007 (October 2006 – September 2007) budget among the various NCI research programs and funding mechanisms, funding policies influencing grant awards, and comparisons with prior year allocations. Funds available to the NCI in FY 2007 totaled over \$4.792 billion, reflecting an increase of 1% and \$45 million over the previous fiscal year. Fiscal highlights from FY 2007 include:

- Of the total NCI budget, 44% of the funds were allocated for Research Project Grants.
- The total number of RPGs funded was 5,472.
- Almost one-fourth of the RPGs awarded were new (Type 1) or competing renewal (Type 2) awards.
- 1,312 competing RPGs were funded.
- Approximately one-third of the total NCI budget supported ongoing non-competing (Type 5) RPGs.
- R01 grants were funded to the 15th percentile (for details see Grant Information below).
- 278 grants - totaling nearly \$94 million – were funded as Small Business Innovation Research (SBIR) and Small Business Technology Transfer (STTR) awards.
- Intramural Research comprised 15% of the total NCI budget.
- \$498 million - 10% of the total NCI budget - was allocated for Cancer Prevention & Control.

For more information, please visit: <http://obf.cancer.gov/financial/factbook.htm>

Resources

NCI has many resources available for cancer researchers, clinical oncologists, and patients. Some of these resources include:

- **NCI website in Spanish (Cancer.gov en español):** is available with many resources translated and available online for researchers, clinicians, and patients.
Visit at: <http://www.cancer.gov/espanol>
- **Research Resources** – A directory of research tools and services for cancer researchers. Visit at: <http://resresources.nci.nih.gov>
- **Publications:** Many of NCI's publications are available online in Spanish and can be searched using the publications locator tool. Visit at: <https://cissecure.nci.nih.gov/ncipubs>
- **Clinical Trials:** NCI conducts and participates in many clinical trials. For information about ongoing clinical trials, clinical trial results, and how to conduct a clinical trial, please visit our clinical trials website: <http://www.cancer.gov/clinicaltrials>
- **Grants Information:** NCI provides funding for cancer research in the form of grants. Many cancer researchers apply for this funding to further their work. For information about grant applications and the review process, please visit <http://www.cancer.gov/clinicaltrials>. NCI also publishes a useful book about the grants process at NCI called *Everything You Wanted to Know About the NCI Grants Process*. The purpose of this publication is to provide a general description of how a grant is awarded and administered. Although the discussion relates to the NCI, the grants process is similar within the other NIH awarding components. It is available online at: <http://www3.cancer.gov/admin/gab/2005GPB/GPB05-LowRes.pdf>.